

Town of Parkertown
New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail
Intersection of U.S. Highway 9 and
County Road 603
Parkertown
Ocean County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-1029

HABS
NJ
15-PARK
2

EXHIBIT

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

TOWN OF PARKERTOWN

HABS No. NJ-1029

Location: New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail, Intersection of U.S. Highway 9 and County Road 603, Parkertown, Ocean County, New Jersey.

Significance: Parkertown originated as the farm of Joseph Parker, who settled in Little Egg Harbor in 1721.

History: Today, Parkertown is little more than a scattering of commercial buildings and Victorian homes. According to Blackman's history, the property, located just south of West Creek, was continually divided as it passed through the hands of generations of Parkers, "until at last Joseph Parker, Sr.'s farm assumed the form of a village, inhabited almost solely by his posterity, and appropriately bearing the name of Parkertown."¹ At one time, the railroad paralleled Route 9, running along what is now Railroad Road. A Methodist church stands at the corner of Railroad and Parker, the street connecting the two main roads. In 1872, there were enough children in the area to require a schoolhouse; forty years later, a room was added to the building, which remained in use until 1950. The abandoned school still stands on Bay Avenue, off Route 9.²

Whether traveling by Route 539 or Route 9, Parkertown is easy to miss. Residents depend on Manahawkin to the north and Tuckerton to the south for services and supplies. The lack of municipal sewers and water systems has slowed area growth, restricting local development to single family homes concentrated along Parkers Road and Thomas Avenue. Developers are currently exploring the possibilities for new housing tracts near Route 539.³

Prepared by: Sarah Allaback
HABS Historian
Summer 1991

Sources: Blackman, Leah. History of Little Egg Township. 1879; reprint Tuckerton: The Great John Mathis Foundation, Inc., 1963.

Campbell, Carolyn. Chickaree in the Wall. Toms River: Ocean County Historical Society, 1987.

Cohen, Lee. "Parkertown's Growth Slowed by Lack of Services." Asbury Park Press, 11 June 1989, G10.

¹ Leah Blackman, History of Little Egg Harbor Township (1879; reprint, Trenton: The Great John Mathis Foundation, Inc., 1963), 222.

² Carolyn Campbell, Chickaree in the Wall (Toms River: Ocean County Historical Society, 1987), 122.

³ Lee Cohen, "Parkertown's growth slowed by lack of services," Asbury Park Press (June 11, 1989), G10.

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Project Information:

This project was sponsored by the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail (NJCHT) of the National Park Service, Janet Wolf, director. The documentation was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Robert Kapsch, chief, under the direction of HABS historian Sara Amy Leach, project supervisor. Three historians completed the research during summer 1991: Field supervisor Sarah Allaback (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Alfred Holden (University of Vermont), and Camille Gatz (North Carolina). David Ames (University of Delaware) made the large-format photographs. Historian, Elizabeth Harris May (George Washington University), edited the HABS reports.